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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10002629-1

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IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S): J. Aguilera et al.

SERIAL NO.: 09/944,686

GROUP ART UNIT: 2179

FILED: August 31, 2001

EXAMINER: T. Chuong

TITLE: User Interface For Simultaneous Duplicator Scheduling

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Applicants request review of the final rejection in the above identified application. No amendments are filed with this request. This request is filed with the Notice of Appeal.

REMARKS SUPPORTING REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-12, 14 and 17-19 are pending.

All pending claims stand rejected under Section 102 as being anticipated by Yamamoto (6553431).

Claim 1 requires a simultaneous display of first icons representing different duplicators and a single second icon that actuates the duplicators selected with the first icons. Claims 14 and 19 are method and computer media counterparts to the user interface of Claim 1 and contain similar limitations. None of the icons in the display shown in Figs. 9A and 9B of Yamamoto actuates any of the scanner or printers

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represented by the scanner and printer icons. Clicking the "OK" icon in the display of Yamamoto Figs. 9A and 9B establishes a "virtual" connection between a scanner 1 and printers 2 and 3. Yamamoto, column 10, lines 59-66.

Clicking the "OK" icon does not actuate either the scanner or the printers. Numerous subsequent acts are required to establish a physical connection between the devices, transfer image data to the printers and then actuate the printers to print the images represented by the image data. These subsequent acts include:

S21 in Fig. 10 -- forming a transfer path profile (column 11, lines 9-29);

S22 in Fig. 10 -- transfer and store transfer path profile (column 11, lines 30-33),

S31-S33 in Fig. 12 -- acquire virtual input/output device information (column 11, lines 54-67);

S34 in Fig. 12 -- sequentially display and select "input/output device information" (column 12, lines 1-16);

S35-S41 in Fig. 12 -- transfer image data to the first selected printer and then to the second selected printer (column 12, lines 17-49).

Further with regard to Claim 5, Yamamoto does not teach that the actuation of the plural duplicators selected by the user occurs simultaneously. Figs. 9A and 9B in Yamamoto cited by the Office in support of the rejection of Claim 5 and the accompanying text at column 10 says nothing about the order in which the printers are actuated -- simultaneously, chronologically or sequentially (or even the order in which data is transmitted from the scanner to the printers). Yamamoto column 12, lines 5-16 and column 19, lines 6-9, describe the sequential display of multiple input/output device profiles on the scanner panel and the use of DATA FORMAT values coincident with input/output device profiles. Hence, if Yamamoto can be interpreted as teaching anything about the actuation of plural duplicators, it teaches away from the simultaneous actuation of the duplicators.

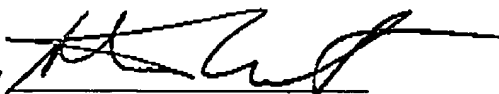
Further with regard to Claim 6, Yamamoto does not teach a user interface displaying a choice for actuation of plural duplicators chronologically, sequentially or both. The passages in Yamamoto cited by the Office in support of the rejection of Claim 6, column 12, lines 5-16 and column 19, lines 6-9, describe the sequential display of multiple input/output device profiles on the scanner panel and the use of

DATA FORMAT values coincident with input/output device profiles. These passages in Yamamoto have no apparent relevance to the display of choices for the sequence in which output devices are actuated.

Claim 10 requires multiple duplicator selections displayed on a single display screen that, when plural selections are made, simultaneously initiates duplication tasks on each of the user selected duplicators. As noted above for Claim 1, none of the icons in the display shown in Figs. 9A and 9B of Yamamoto actuates any of the scanner or printers represented by the scanner and printer icons. Clicking the "OK" icon in the display of Yamamoto Figs. 9A and 9B establishes a "virtual" connection between a scanner 1 and printers 2 and 3. Yamamoto, column 10, lines 59-66. Clicking the "OK" icon does not actuate either the scanner or the printers. Subsequent acts initiated at the scanner or the printers are required to establish a physical connection between the devices, transfer image data to the printers and then actuate the printers to print the images represented by the image data. See Yamamoto, columns 11 and 12. In addition, as noted above for Claim 5, Yamamoto does not teach that the actuation of the plural duplicators selected by the user occurs simultaneously. Figs. 9A and 9B in Yamamoto and the accompanying text at column 10 says nothing about simultaneously initiating printing on plural printers.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Aguilera et al.

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